

Testimony
Senate Bill 1009
An Act Concerning Identified Adoptions

Dear Distinguished Members of the Children's Committee:

I want to draw your attention today to S.B. 1009, an Act Concerning Identified Adoptions. My Name is Meg Woglom and I am the Director of Adoption at Family & Children's Agency, a multi-service human services organization serving over 13,000 people in Greater Norwalk. For the last 75 years, Family & Children's Agency has proudly served as a leading organization in the field of adoption.

As you know, S.B. 1009 proposes much needed revisions to Connecticut's Identified Adoption Statute. Identified adoption, defined as an adoption where a non-related child was identified and/or located for the purpose of adoption by prospective adoptive parents prior to the child's placement in the home, makes up only about 10-20% of all private adoptions currently completed in CT. Most adoption matches are made by a CT licensed private agency working with both the biological and adoptive families, or by an approved out of state agency working with biological parent(s) and a CT agency working with the adoptive parent(s). There is a critical need to revise the statute and regulations to represent the current adoption practices in the State of CT. The updated statute would require the Department of Children and Families to adopt regulations concerning all private adoptive placements of children by child-placing agencies, not just in cases of Identified Adoption. Further, the bill specifies the types of payments and reimbursements that may be made by prospective adoptive parents to pregnant parents and requirements for making such payments and reimbursements. In doing so, all biological parents, adoptive parents and children placed for private adoption are protected.

I urge you to weigh this issue carefully before deciding the fate of this bill. Revising the statute and regulations will modernize and update them to reflect current adoption practices in CT. Most importantly, all members of the adoption triad will be protected from the revision of the statute.

Thank you,

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